

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01462 031022Z

12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03

ACDA-05 PM-03 L-02 NASA-01 NSC-05 OES-03 OC-05 CCO-00

OTPE-00 FCC-01 BIB-01 /059 W  
----- 003931

R 030913Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6803

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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PASS OTP, FCC, COAST GUARD, MARAD, NASA

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETEL TSPA XG

SUBJ: MARITIME SATELLITE

1. TEAM SENT SEPTTEL FROM HELSINKI REPORTING INITIAL FINNISH REACTION TO US PRESENTATION ON PRESENT MARITIME SATELLITE POLICY. FOLLOWING DESPATCH OF THAT MESSAGE US AND FINNISH TEAMS HAD OPPORTUNITY FURTHER EXCHANGE VIEWS AT DINNER, AND PARTICULARLY FOR FINNS TO REACT TO QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM EARLIER IN DAY.

PERHAPS MOST SURPRISING REVELATION WAS BY FINN TEAM MEMBER BACKSTROM WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN POE MEETINGS THAT GOF HAS GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO NOT RPT NOT GOING TO LONDON CONFERENCE. HE CONVEYED THIS TO CAPTAIN ADAMS AS HAVING BEEN A MATTER OF SOME THOUGHT WITHIN GOF. US TEAM IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, IS THAT WHILE IDEA IS ONE OF GOF ALTERNATIVES THAT IT IS MUCH MORE LIKELY THEY WILL BE AT LONDON CONFERENCE.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01462 031022Z

3. IN THESE EVENING DISCUSSIONS FINNS SAID THEY HAD NOT

HAD TIME TO STUDY OUTLINES OF TWO AGREEMENTS THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THEM EARLIER IN THE DAY AND THEREFORE COULD NOT COMMENT ON THEIR SPECIFIC PROVISIONS. THEY DID MAKE BROADER OBSERVATION, HOWEVER, THAT US SUBMISSION OF SERIOUS CHANGE AT THIS LATE DATE WAS CERTAIN TO BE CONSIDERED BY SOME AS US EFFORT TO DELAY INMARSAT ESTABLISHMENT. US COUNTERED WITH PROTESTATION THAT DELAY WAS NOT US PURPOSE; THAT TWO-AGREEMENT SOLUTION WAS PRODUCT OF LENGTHY USG-INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS; THAT WE REGRETTED TWO-AGREEMENT SOLUTION HAD NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS MUCH EARLIER; AND THAT WE HOPED FINNS AND OTHERS WOULD RECOGNIZE AND CREDIT US WITH VERY FUNDAMENTAL POLICY SHIFT FROM TIME OF POE WHEN IT WAS NOT AT ALL CLEAR THAT US WOULD PARTICIPATE. INMARSAT. NOW WE ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE PROVIDED OUR ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS DESIGNATED ENTITY FINANCIAL/ OPERATIONAL RESSPONSIBILITY CAN BE ACCOMMODATED. FINNS IMPLIED RESPONSE TO US ARGUMENTS WAS THAT WHILE FINNS MAY NOT CONSIDER IT A DELAYING TACTIC BY US, SUCH AN INTERPRETATION MIGHT WELL BE MADE BY OTHERS. US TEAM FEELING IS THAT IF MAJORITY OF LONDON PARTICIPANTS ARE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH TWO AGREEMENTS THEN FINNS WILL SUPPORT IDEA. LEAST DESIRABLE OPTION FOR FINNS WOULD BE FOR CONFERENCE SPLIT WITH FINNS IN MIDDLE. FINNS INDICATED THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT TWO-AGREEMENT SITUATION UNLESS SOVIETS WENT ALONG.

4. FINNS GAVE ONLY VERY BRIEF COMMENT AS FOLLOWS ON OTHER POINTS RAISED BY US:

A) THEIR PROCUREMENT POLICY POSITION CONTINUES TO FAVOR ALTERNATIVE A OF POE DRAFT, BUT THEY IMPLIED THEY MAY HAVE SOME SLIGHT FLEXIBILITY;

B) AS YET THEY HAVE NO VIEWS ON MARISAT/MAROTS COOPERATIVE EFFORT. THEY EXPECT IT WILL BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN UPCOMING CEPT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, AND FOLLOWING THAT MEETING PLUS NORDIC COUNTRY CONSULTATION THEY WILL FORM GOF POSITION.

C) THEY OPPOSE SHIP OWNER/OPERATOR DIRECT REPRESENTATION IN INMARSAT ORGANIZATION, APPARENTLY GENERALLY FAVORING EACH NATION REPRESENTING ITS OWN SHIP OPERATORS' VIEWS.

D) GOF HAS NO CLEAR PICTURE OF FINNISH OWNER/OPERATORS' REAL ATTITUDE TOWARD SATELLITE SYSTEM OTHER THAN THAT IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 01462 031022Z

IS ONE OF INTEREST. IT WOULD BE GOF POLICY FOR SHIPS TO BUY OWN TERMINALS AND NOT LEASE THEM FROM THE PTT.

E) TO DATE THEY DO NOT RPT NOT FAVOR USE OF SATELLITE SYSTEM BY SHIPS IN PORT, BUT IMPLIED THAT THEY MAY HAVE SOME LITTLE FLEXIBILITY IN GOF POSITION. THEY DO APPRECIATE THE REVENUE IMPACT PORT USE COULD HAVE ON SYSTEM'S ECONOMICS. PRESENT GOF POLICY DOES NOT PERMIT SHIP RADIO USE WHILE IN FINNISH PORTS.

F) THEY HAVE NOT YET FORMED A POSITION ON DESIRABILITY  
NAVIGATION/SAFETY CAPABILITY OF SYSTEM

5. FINNS WERE GENERALLY PLEASED AND DELIGHTED THAT  
US TEAM VISITED HELSINKI. THEY INTERPRETED IT APPARENTLY  
AS POSITIVE DEMONSTRATION OF US RESPECT FOR THEIR VIEWS.

6. BISPITE OUTRAGEOUS HELSINKI HOTEL PRICES US TEAM IS  
STRONGLY CONVINCED THAT STOP WAS VALUABLE INVESTMENT OF TIME  
AND EFFORT.  
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**Draft Date:** 03 FEB 1975  
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